

Mary Owings Miller Collection

MS 08

Finding aid prepared by Darryl Byrd

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

April 27, 2015

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Enoch Pratt Free Library Special Collections

November 2003

<http://www.prattlibrary.org/>

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Table of Contents

<u>Summary Information</u>	3
<u>Biographical/Historical note</u>	4
<u>Scope and Contents</u>	4
<u>Arrangements</u>	4
<u>Administrative Information</u>	5
<u>Controlled Access Headings</u>	6
<u>Collection Inventory</u>	7
<u>Series I: Correspondence</u>	7
<u>Series II: Published works autographed for Mary Owings Miller and others</u>	17

Summary Information

Repository	Enoch Pratt Free Library Special Collections
Title	Mary Owings Miller Collection
Date [bulk]	Bulk, 1943-1964
Date [inclusive]	1941-1972
Extent	6.0 Linear feet 11 boxes, 20 books
Language	English
Abstract	<p>Mary Owings Miller was born in Columbia, South Carolina on September 26, 1900. In 1941, while living in Baltimore, Maryland, Miller began editing and publishing Contemporary Poetry. The collection primarily consists of correspondence from 1941-1972 and business letters written to Contemporary Poetry with Miller as editor or publisher. The envelopes for the letters were heavily annotated by Miller. In addition, the Collection also contains correspondence from a large number of poets from such notables as: Henry Miller, H.L. Mencken, T.S. Eliot, and others. Finally, the collection contains autographed works for Miller and others.</p>

Preferred Citation

Mary Owings Miller Collection 1941-1972, Special Collections, Enoch Pratt Free Library/Maryland's state Library Resource Center.

Biographical/Historical note

Mary Owings Miller was born in Columbia, South Carolina on September 26, 1900. The exact date of her death is not known. She received her Bachelors Degree from Winthrop College in 1921, a Teaching Certificate in 1925, and her Master of Arts degree in 1931. She married Raymond B. Miller, a professor of Economics at the University of Baltimore, in 1927. In 1941, while living in Baltimore, Maryland, Mary Owings Miller began editing and publishing *Contemporary Poetry*, a bi-annual collection of poetry by various authors. She changed the publishing schedule for *Contemporary Poetry* to one volume per year in 1959 and continued to publish that title until 1970. In addition to the annual work of poetry that she published, Miller also published a Distinguished Poet Series and a Library Series. These series were published intermittently and featured such poets as Richard Hart, John George, Merrill Moore, and Miller's own poetry. Some of her works include *Wheel of Paper* (1948) and *High Sun Over Yram* (1961).

Scope and Contents

The collection consists primarily of correspondence and business letters written to *Contemporary Poetry* and Miller as an editor or publisher. The envelopes for the letters were heavily annotated by Miller and have been kept with the letters. She arranged all of her correspondence in alphabetical order and bundled the groups of letters together and labeled them with the appropriate letter of the alphabet. Original order was maintained while processing the collection and even though some of the authors of the letters do not have surnames, they were left in place as Miller had left them. Additionally, the letters were already roughly arranged in chronological order within each bundle.

Arrangements

I. Correspondence

This series contains correspondence from a large number of poets over a thirty year period. The collection contains letters from such notables as:

Josephine Johnson Katherine Garrison Chapin Biddle Henry Miller H.L. Mencken Marianne Moore
Merrill Moore T.S. Eliot Ogden Nash Adrienne Rich Langston Hughes

II. Published works autographed for Mary Owings Miller and others

This series is a short collection of published works that were autographed for Mary Owings Miller and 2 others (Richard Hart and Fred Stieff).

Series II: Published works autographed for Mary Owings Miller and others

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Enoch Pratt Free Library Special Collections November 2003

Revision Description

Entered into Archivist' Toolkit by Joan M. Wolk. December 2014

Conditions Governing Access

"Unrestricted, by appointment only."

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Accruals

"No accruals are expected."

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The Enoch Pratt Free Library acquired the collection through Richard Hart, former director of the Humanities Department of the Pratt library. Hart had a long professional acquaintance with Mary Owings Miller, who helped edit and publish his poetry.

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Winthrop College, the South Carolina College for Women.

Genre(s)

- autographs (manuscripts)
- Correspondence

Personal Name(s)

- Eliot , T. S. (Thomas Stearns), 1888-1965
- Hart, Richard H. (Harry)
- Hughes, Langston , 1902-1967
- Johnson, Josephine Winslow, 1910-
- Mencken, H. L. (Henry Louis), 1880-1956
- Miller, Mary Owings, 1900-
- Nash, Ogden, 1902-1971

Subject(s)

- Poetry

Series I: Correspondence

Collection Inventory

Series I: Correspondence 1942-1972	Box	Folder
	1-11	1-143
	Box	Folder
Ab-Ag	1	1
Alexander, Lloyd, September 1947 - January 1954	1	2
Ame – Amm	1	3
Anderson, Lee, April 1959 – June 1959	1	4
Anderson, Lee, June 1959 – November 1968	1	5
And-Atl	1	6
Au-Ay	1	7
Ba-Be	1	8
Biddle, Katherine Garrison Chapin, Feb. 1943 – Feb. 1949	1	9
Biddle, Katherine Garrison Chapin, April 1949 – June 1953	1	10
Biddle, Katherine Garrison Chapin, July 1954 – January 1964	1	11

Series I: Correspondence

Bis-Bis	2	12
Bjerknes, Chris, March 1953 – February 1954	2	13
Bjerknes, Chris, February 1954 – April 1955	2	14
Bla-Bol	2	15
Boggs, Tom, April 1941 – March 1943	2	16
Boggs, Tom, March 1943 – July 1943	2	17
Boggs, Tom, August 1943 – October 1943	2	18
Boggs, Tom, November 1943 – November 1945	2	19
Boggs, Tom, March 1950 – August 1952	2	20
Boo-Bra	2	21
Bri-Bri	2	22
Bri-Buc	2	23
Bur-Byn	2	24
Cai-Car	3	25

Series I: Correspondence

Car-Chi	3	26
Chi-Cla	3	27
Cof-Col	3	28
Coleman, Elliott, November 1951-August 1954	3	29
Coleman, Elliott, August 1954 – December 1954	3	30
Coleman, Elliott, July 1955 – June 1956	3	31
Coleman, Elliott, December 1957 – January 1960	3	32
Coleman, Elliott, April 1961 – October 1970	3	33
Col-Con	3	34
Con-Cus	3	35
Dai-deC	3	36
DeJ-Deu	3	37
DeV-Doh	3	38
Doughty, Legarde S., May 1950 – December 1956	4	39

Series I: Correspondence

Dow-Dur	4	40
Dur-Dus	4	41
Ear-Eat	4	42
Eberhart, Richard, June 1947 – December 1947	4	43
Eberhart, Richard, December 1947 – March 1954	4	44
Eli-Emm	4	45
Evans, Abbie, March 1942 – September 1960	4	46
Eva-Eva	4	47
Fer-Fit	4	48
Flesh, Alfred L., November 1950 – September 1955	4	49
Flesh, Alfred L., February 1956 – July 1969	4	50
Fli-Fri	4	51
Gar-Geo	5	52
Glenn, Elizabeth, June 1953 – August 1953	5	53

Series I: Correspondence

Glenn, Elizabeth, August 1953 – September 1955	5	54
Glenn, Elizabeth, March 1958 – May 1961	5	55
Goo-Gra	5	56
Greenaway, Emerson, June 1946 – January 1950	5	57
Gre-Gre	5	58
Guess, William Frank, September 1950 – September 1952	5	59
Ham-Har	5	60
Har-Har	5	61
Hart, Richard, July 1943 – May 1965	5	62
Har-Hei	5	63
Hem-Hir	5	64
Hoagland, Clayton, May 1948 – August 1949	5	65
Hoa-How	5	66
Hughes, Langston, April 1943 – June 1948	5	67

Series I: Correspondence

Ima	6	68
Jac-Jac	6	69
John, George, July 1947 – September 1951	6	70
John, George, September 1951 – October 1951	6	71
John, George, October 1951– November 1951	6	72
John, George, February 1952 – March 1952	6	73
John, George, August 1953 – January 1956	6	74
John, George, 1956	6	75
Johnson, Josephine, April 1941 – September 1952	6	76
Johnson, Josephine, December 1952 – November 1953	6	77
Johnson, Josephine, December 1953 – May 1957	6	78
Johnson, Josephine, January 1958 – July 1958	6	79
Johnson, Josephine, June 1964 – January 1968	6	80
Kei-Koc	7	81

Series I: Correspondence

Koe-Kre	7	82
Kruger, Fania, October 1953 – April 1961	7	83
Lau-Lei	7	84
Lin-Lou	7	85
Lou-Low	7	86
Lue-Lut	7	87
McC-Mac	7	88
Mac-Mac	7	89
Mar-Mar	7	90
Marsh, Irene, August 1966 – May 1967	7	91
Marsh, Irene, October 1967 – May 1972	7	92
Mar-May	8	93
May-Mer	8	94
Merriam, Eve, June 1946 – May 1953	8	95

Series I: Correspondence

Mil-Mil	8	96
Mod-Mod	8	97
Moore, Marianne, June 1942 – April 1943	8	98
Moore, Marianne, May 1943 – February 1944	8	99
Moore, Marianne, August 1944 – December 1944	8	100
Moore, Marianne, December 1944 – February 1950	8	101
Moore, Marianne, February 1951 – April 1962	8	102
Moore, Merrill, January 53 – September 1958	8	103
Moo-Moo	9	104
Mos-Mus	9	105
Miscellaneous	9	106
Nas	9	107
O'Connell, Richard, April 1957 – April 1958	9	108
O'Connell, Richard, October 1958 – June 1972	9	109

Series I: Correspondence

O'Co-Owi	9	110
Par-Par	9	111
Rac-Ran	9	112
Richman, Robert, May 1944 – May – 1953	9	113
Roditi, Edouard, July 1944 – November 1949	9	114
Ros-Rus	9	115
Sal-Sau	10	116
Saw-Sch	10	117
Sco-Sha	10	118
Shapiro, Karl, September 1942 - November 1953	10	119
Sim-Sob	10	120
Sol-Spe	10	121
Spencer, Theodore, December 1943 – December 1946	10	122
Sta-Ste	10	123

Series I: Correspondence

Stepanchev, Stephen, September 1953 – May 1957	10	124
Stepanchev, Stephen, September 1957 – October 1957	10	125
Stevens, Wallace, February 1946 – October 1952	10	126
Ste-Swe	10	127
Tag-Tam	11	128
Tate, Allen, September 1943 – March 1946	11	129
Tho-Tur	11	130
Van dorn, 1944	11	131
Vazakas, Byron, October 1945 – October 1952	11	132
Viereck, Peter, May 1947 – July 1948	11	133
Viereck, Peter, August 1948 – April 1954	11	134
Vil-Vin	11	135
Wad-Wei	11	136
Wells, Henry W., December 1953 – February 1954	11	137

Series II: Published works autographed for Mary Owings Miller and others

Wells, Henry W., October 1954 – February 1959	11	138
Whe-Whilb	11	139
Williams, Oscar, January 1945 – May 1947	11	140
Will-Wor	11	141
You-Yut	11	142
Zatunuka, Marya, January 1942 – November 1947	11	143

Series II: Published works autographed for Mary Owings Miller and others

Arenas by Tom Boggs (1943) signed

Bird in the Bush, A by David Mason Heminway (1961) signed

Certain Poems by John Edward Hardy (1958) signed

Depths and Shallows by Sally Bruce Kinsolving (1921) unsigned. -2 Copies

Diver, The by E.L. Mayo (1947) signed

Elbow Room by Oliver St. John Gogarty (1942) signed

Figurine and Other Poems by Adele V. Holden (1961) Signed to Richard Hart

Series II: Published works autographed for Mary Owings Miller and others

First Poems by Marvin Solomon (1952) signed

Footlights and Highlights by Crosby Gaige (1948) Signed to Fred Stieff

Himself and I by Mary Sinton Leitch (1950) signed

Natural World by Eleanor Glenn Wallis (1940) signed

News of the Pheonix and other Poems by J.M. Smith (1943) signed

No Harm to Lovers by Hubert Creekmore (1950) signed

Predilictions-Literary Essays by Marianne Moore (1955) signed

Terror and Decorum Poems 1940-1948 by Peter Viereck (1948) signed

Tidewater Country by Eleanor Glenn Wallis (1944) signed

Yellow Door and other Poems, The by James Urquhart (1954) signed

Wheel of Paper, The by Mary Owens Miller (1948) unsigned

With this Bright Armor by Grace Bush (1950) Signed to Richard Hart

XXI Poems by R. Crombie Saunders (1955) signed